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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/674,077	10/26/2000	Hideyuki Kimura	107714	1563

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EXAMINER

PATTERSON, MARC A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/674,077

Applicant(s)

KIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Marc A. Patterson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/19/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 12-14, 22 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 12-14, 22 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

1. The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of Claims 1 – 2, 22 and 24 as being anticipated by Hirata et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,193,711), of record on page 2 of the previous Action, is withdrawn.

NEW REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 – 2, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirata et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,193,711) in view of Moore (U.S. Patent No. 5,954,223).

With regard to Claims 1 and 22, Hirata et al disclose a body which is molded and is a container (column 4, lines 53 – 55) and cylindrical (circular; column 5, lines 65 – 66) and therefore has a sidewall portion having an inner surface and an outer surface and an upper opening, and comprises a sheet shaped insert, which is a label which is forced between a core and a cavity of a mold, and therefore inserted between the core and cavity (column 5, lines 41 – 45) having an upper edge and lower edge (the label has a lower end, and therefore an upper end; column 5, lines 41 – 45); resin is injected into the space between the core and the cavity and is unified with the insert, allowing the insert to be bonded to the outer side of the wall of the body (column 5, lines 41 – 45), therefore bonded to the outer surface of the body; the body is therefore

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insertion molded; the container comprises a thickened area which is formed by the resin and which is less than the full height of the container (the thickened area is formed by cut surfaces in the core which are less than the full height of the container, therefore closer to the upper edge than the lower edge as shown in Figure 12; the thickened area is shown in Figure 13; column 7, lines 15 – 20); which is positioned at the inner surface of the sidewall portion (the cut surface of the core is in the side wall of the core as shown in Figure 21); because the resin of the thickened area is injected, the thickened area is formed by an injection gate opening, and is therefore a mark of an injection gate opening and is formed by injection; because the thickened area is less than the full height of the container, the thickened area is a mark that is inwardly apart from the upper end of the insert in an axial direction and at a position corresponding to a position on the inner surface that is covered by the insert; however, the claimed aspect of the mark being formed by injection is directed to a process limitation, rather than a method limitation, and is therefore given little patentable weight; Hirata et al do not disclose wrinkles or injected material on the outer surface of the insert; Hirata et al therefore disclose a container without wrinkles or injected material on the outer surface of the insert. Hirata et al fail to disclose a container having a bottom opening.

Moore teaches a container that is provided with a bottom opening for the purpose of draining water from the container (column 4, lines 36 – 43). One of ordinary skill in the art would therefore have recognized the advantage of providing for the bottom opening of Moore in Hirata et al, which comprises a container, depending on the desired drainage of the end product.

It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have provided for a bottom opening in Hirata et al in order to obtain a container from which water may be drained as taught by Moore.

With regard to Claim 2, Hirata et al disclose a gap on the outer surface positioned between opposed ends of the insert and not covered by the insert (between sidewall sections of the insert as shown in Figure 3; column 4, lines 56 – 60).

With regard to Claim 24, the Hirata et al disclose a container comprising one bottom wall, instead of multiple bottom wall, as shown in Figure 1A, and therefore is formed without a bottom wall.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 – 6, 12 – 14, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirata et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,193,711) in view of Moore (U.S. Patent No. 5,954,223) and Suzuki et al (Japanese Patent No. 6246777) and Asahi Chemical (Japanese Patent No. 03286815).

Hirata et al and Moore disclose an insertion and injection molded article comprising an insert and injected resin as discussed above. The mold comprises a mold cavity, therefore an outer mold unit, and core, as discussed above, therefore a core shaped to be inserted and fitted

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into the outer mold unit, and a cavity between the outer mold unit and the core; the core also comprises an injection gate opening (groove; column 6, lines 65 – 67); the insert is placed between the core and cavity, as discussed above, and is therefore fitted attached and held along the inner surface, and resin is injected toward the molded body inner surface; the insert is also pushed onto the inner surface with the resin (the resin forces the side wall section against the cavity side; column 5, lines 49 – 52) and therefore shapes the resin. With regard to Claims 3, 23 and 25, Hirata et al fail to disclose a core which is a pull – out mold unit and a resin which is cured following injection.

Suzuki et al teach the use of a mold unit which is a pull – out mold unit (pulled out of the space; paragraph 0025, English translation) for injection molding, for the purpose of molding a container (paragraph 0004, English translation). One of ordinary skill in the art would therefore have recognized the advantage of providing for the pull – out mold unit of Suzuki et al in Hirata et al, which comprises insertion and injection molding, depending on the desired adhesion to both layers of the end product.

It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have provided for a pull – out mold unit, therefore a core which is a pull – out mold unit, in Hirata et al and Moore in order to obtain a container as taught by Suzuki et al.

Asahi Chemical teaches that thermoplastic resins and thermosetting resins are used alternatively in the making of containers for the purpose of making a container having a good appearance (English Abstract). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the utility of providing for the thermosetting resin taught by Asahi Chemical, rather than a

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thermoplastic resin, in Suzuki et al, which is a container, depending on the desired surface appearance of the end product as taught by Asahi Chemical.

It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have provided for a thermosetting resin in Suzuki et al in order to make a container having a good appearance as taught by Asahi Chemical, thus providing for a resin which continuously cures throughout the molding process of Suzuki et al including the step following injection.

With regard to Claim 4, as stated above, Hirata et al disclose a gap on the outer surface positioned between opposed ends of the insert and not covered by the insert; molten resin is therefore not injected toward the gap.

With regard to Claims 5 and 12, a knock out pin is provided in the core disclosed by Suzuki et al (ejection pin; paragraph 0011, English translation), and the Suzuki et al further disclose pulling out the pull – out mold unit of the outer mold unit after insertion molding (paragraph 0025, English translation) and cutting a connection between the cured resin inside an injection gate opening and a molded body by raising the knock - out pin (the ejection pin is raised, eliminating thermoplastics remaining between the core and runner, thus cutting the connection between molded body and the knock - out pin; paragraph 0011 , English translation) and removing the body by pushing the bottom portion of the body (the fabricated compound container is taken out from the core by moving upwards the stripper plate with which its bottom portion is in contact (paragraph 0022., English translation; Figure 9).

With regard to Claims 6 and 13 – 14, as discussed above, the insert disclosed by Hirata et al is fitted, attached and held in a cylindrical shape along the inner surface of the outer mold unit;

the mold unit is a pull - out mold unit as discussed above, and a contact frictional force is therefore applied by placing the insert in a cylindrical shape into the outer mold unit while the core of the injection molding mold is pulled out from the outer mold unit.

ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

6. Applicant's arguments and amended claims regarding the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of Claims 1 – 2, 22 and 24 as being anticipated by Hirata et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,193,711), of record on page 2 of the previous Action, have been considered and have been found to be persuasive. The rejection is therefore withdrawn. The new rejection above is directed to amended Claims 1 – 6, 12 – 14 and 22 – 23.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A Patterson whose telephone number is 571-272-1497.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marc A. Patterson 3/2/07

Marc A. Patterson, PhD.
Primary Examiner
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